Sri Sooryanarayana temple, Arasavalli, Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh

Info is given under following headings:

Location, address, phone, how to get there. Greatness of this temple. Legends and history. Architecture of temple deities. Sub-deities, daily rituals and poojas and their charges ..special poojas and rituals and their charges.. festivals, facilities for devotees...like accommodation etc. Donation info and bank acct number etc. Nearby temples. Other tourist attractions. Nearby budget hotels. Any other info...etc

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AI Overview

Sri Sooryanarayana Swamy Temple in Arasavalli, Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh, is a 7th-century, Kalinga-style temple dedicated to the Sun God, renowned as one of India's oldest solar shrines. Located near Srikakulam town, it is famous for its unique architecture, where sun rays directly touch the idol twice a year, and the major festival of Ratha Saptami.

Key Details About Arasavalli Sun Temple:

- **Location:** Situated in Arasavalli, about 1.6 km from Srikakulam town and 17 km from Srikakulam Road railway station.
- **Deity:** Lord Surya (The Sun God) is worshipped in a black granite idol, accompanied by his consorts Usha and Chaya, and charioteer Aruna.
- **History & Architecture:** Built in the 7th century CE by Devendra Varma, a Kalinga Dynasty ruler. It is a prime example of Kalinga architecture.
- **Significance:** It is believed that worshipping here helps cure illnesses and skin diseases. The Temple holds a special,, sacred pond named **Indra Pushkarini**.
- **Festivals: Ratha Saptami** is the most significant festival, attracting thousands of devotees, followed by Chakra Snanam.
- **Temple Timings:** Generally open from 6:30 AM to 2:00 PM and 3:30 PM to 8:00 PM.
- **Best Time to Visit:** October to March for pleasant weather.

Special Features:

- **Sun Rays Phenomenon:** The temple is designed so that the sun's rays fall directly on the feet of the deity during March and September.
- **Darshan Options:** The government offers online booking for special darshans, particularly during festivals like Ratha Saptami.
- **Dress Code:** Traditional and formal clothing is expected

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Sri Sooryanarayana Swamy Temple (also known as Arasavalli Sun Temple or Suryanarayana Swamy Temple) in Arasavalli is a revered ancient temple dedicated to Lord Surya (Sun God).

It is one of the few prominent Sun temples in India and holds great spiritual significance.

Location, Address, Phone

Location: Arasavalli Village, about 1 km east of Srikakulam town, Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh.

Full Address: Sri Suryanarayana Swamy Devasthanam, Arasavalli, Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh 532401 (or 532402 in some references).

Phone/Contact: Common numbers include +91 9491000708, +91 92466 33432, or temple-related: 08942-222421, mobile 89789-14660. For latest, check official sources.

Email examples: sungodtemplearasavalli@gmail.com.

Official website: https://www.srisuryatemple.com/ (for updates, sevas, etc.).

How to Get There

By Air: Nearest airport is Visakhapatnam International Airport (about 110-120 km away). From there, take a taxi or bus to Srikakulam (around 2-3 hours), then local transport to the temple.

By Train: Nearest railway station is Srikakulam Road (about 10-18 km from the temple). Autos, taxis, or buses are available to Arasavalli.

By Road/Bus: Well-connected via NH16. From Srikakulam town bus stand or railway station, it's a short 1-5 km ride by auto/taxi.
The temple is easily accessible from Vizianagaram or Visakhapatnam by road.

Parking is available near the welcome arch; vehicles may not enter the inner street.

Greatness of This Temple

This is one of the oldest and most revered Sun God temples in India, possibly the only prominent one on the Coromandel Coast.

It is famous for its spiritual power in relieving ailments, health issues, and physical pains (especially via the sacred Indra Pushkarini tank).

Devotees believe praying here brings relief from diseases, blessings for eyesight, vitality, and prosperity.
Sunday is considered highly auspicious for worship.

A unique feature: Twice a year (around February and June), direct sunlight rays fall on the feet of the deity due to architectural precision, symbolizing the Sun God's presence.

Legends and History

Legends mention Sage Kashyapa installing the idol, or Lord Indra establishing it after penance.

Another links to Lord Krishna diverting the Nagavalli River (now Vamsadhara) and building the temple.

Historically, it dates back to the 7th century CE, built/reconstructed by Kalinga ruler King Devendra Varma (Eastern Ganga/Kalinga dynasty).

Some accounts suggest origins over 5,000 years old, with later reconstructions (e.g., 1774 using red stone).
It has been a significant site since ancient times.

Architecture of Temple & Deities

The temple features Kalinga-style architecture with intricate carvings.

The sanctum is designed so that sunlight directly illuminates the deity's feet during specific times.

Main Deity: Lord Suryanarayana Swamy (Sun God) in standing posture with consorts (Ushadevi and Chhaya Devi).

Sub-deities/Shrines: Goddess Bhuvaneshwari (with Shiva Lingam and Nandi), Lord Vishnu, Anjaneya (Hanuman), Kala Bhairava, Subramanya, and Navagrahas in a glass enclosure.

There is a sacred tank called Indra Pushkarini.

Daily Rituals and Poojas and Their Charges

Temple timings: Generally 5:00 AM/6:00 AM to 12:00-1:00 PM and 3:30/4:00 PM to 8:00 PM (may vary; sunrise aarti is special).

Common daily sevas (approximate charges; confirm on official site as they may update):

Astottara Seva: ₹20 (one-time), ₹300 (saswatha).
Sahasra Namarchana: ₹30 (one-time), ₹400 (saswatha).
Ksheerabhisheka: ₹216 (one-time), ₹2500 (saswatha).

Other daily: Suprabhata Seva, Ushakal Archana, Mangala Harathi, etc. (free/general darshan; special may have nominal fees).

No strict VIP/special darshan charges in some accounts; focus on equality.

Special Poojas and Rituals and Their Charges

- Ksheeranna Bhogam: ₹50 (one-time), ₹600 (saswatha), on Sundays around 3:00 PM.
- Tiruveedhi Seva: ₹500 (one-time), ₹5000 (saswatha), Sundays 6:00 PM.
- Kalyana Seva: ₹500 (one-time), ₹5000 (saswatha), on Ekadasi around 8:00-10:00 AM.
- **Other specials** include Abhishekams and annual events.

Festivals

Ratha Saptami (Magha Saptami, Feb/March): Major festival, considered Lord Surya's birthday; grand chariot procession and celebrations.

Others: Maha Shivaratri, Krishna Janmashtami, Vaikuntha Ekadasi.

Sunrise worship and special aartis are highlighted.

Facilities for Devotees (Accommodation etc.)

Temple may have limited or basic facilities; devotees often stay in Srikakulam town (1 km away).

For accommodation near temple/town: Contact temple/devotee lines like +91 9393939150.

In Srikakulam: Budget options include Hotel Sunrise, Sri Balaji Residency, Hotel Vijetha Inn, Hotel Grand, Amaravathi, Nagavali, Varam Residency (₹1000-2000+ range for standard rooms; check current rates).

Choultry/dharmashala may be available for pilgrims.

Donation Info and Bank Account

Donations support temple maintenance/sevas.
Use the official website (srisuryatemple.com) for online booking/donations or contact the temple directly.
Specific bank details are not publicly listed in general sources—please inquire via phone/email or visit for hundi/donation options.
Some accounts note no hundi in certain periods, but standard practices apply.

Nearby Temples

Sri Kurmam Temple (dedicated to Lord Vishnu as Kurma avatar, about 13-15 km away).
Other local shrines in Srikakulam area.

Other Tourist Attractions

- Beaches along the Bay of Bengal near Srikakulam.
- Salihundam Buddhist site (ancient stupas).
- Nagavali River spots.
- General sightseeing in Srikakulam town.

Nearby Budget Hotels

In Srikakulam (close to temple):

- Hotel Sunrise (near temple).
- Sri Balaji Residency.
- Hotel Vijetha Inn.
- Hotel Grand.
- Budget lodges like Sri Rama Lodge or others (₹800-1500 range; confirm via booking sites like TripAdvisor or local inquiry).

Any Other Info

Mobile phones/cameras are often not allowed inside; deposit at counters.

Best visit on Sundays for special energy.

The temple promotes health benefits from worship and holy dip in the tank.

For latest details (timings, sevas, festivals), visit the official website:

https://www.srisuryatemple.com/ or contact the temple directly, as practices can vary.

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Ref: ChatGpt

Sri Suryanarayana Swamy Temple, Arasavalli
(Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh)

1. **Location**

Place: Arasavalli Village
Town: Srikakulam
District: Srikakulam
State: Andhra Pradesh
PIN Code: 532401

Arasavalli is about 2 km from Srikakulam town.

2. **Address & Contact Details**

Sri Suryanarayana Swamy Devasthanam
Arasavalli Village,
Srikakulam – 532401
Andhra Pradesh
📞 Temple Office Phone: +91-8942-222421
(Devotees are advised to reconfirm pooja charges before visiting.)

3. **How to Reach**

By Air

Nearest Airport: Visakhapatnam International Airport (approx. 110–115 km)
Taxis and buses available from Visakhapatnam.

By Train

Nearest Railway Station: Srikakulam Road (Amadalavalasa) – about 12 km.
Autos and buses available from the station.

By Road

Well connected by APSRTC buses from:
Visakhapatnam
Vizianagaram
Vijayawada
Hyderabad
Local autos and taxis available from Srikakulam town.

4. **Greatness of the Temple**

One of the very few ancient Sun God temples in India.
Considered one of the most sacred Surya temples in the country.
Devotees believe that **worship here cures**:
Eye diseases
Skin problems
Health-related afflictions
Graha doshas related to Sun (Surya Graha)
It is one of the Pancharama Kshetras of Surya worship in South India (as per local belief).

The temple is unique because:
The idol is in standing posture, unlike Konark (which is architectural only).
Sun rays fall directly on the deity during specific times of the year.

5. **Legends & History**
Legend of Indra
According to Sthala Purana:

Lord Indra killed Vritrasura and incurred Brahma Hatya Dosha.
To get rid of this sin, Indra installed the idol of Surya Bhagavan at Arasavalli.
Hence, the temple is believed to be over 1500 years old.

Historical Background

Built originally by the Eastern Ganga dynasty king Devendra Varma in the 7th century.
Renovated later by Cholas and local rulers.
The temple has inscriptions from different dynasties.

6. **Architecture**

Built in Kalinga architectural style.
The temple faces East.
The main sanctum is structured so that:
During March and September, the sun rays directly fall on the feet of the deity.

Features:

- Garbhagriha (sanctum)
- Antarala
- Mukha Mandapa
- Beautiful stone carvings.
- The idol is about 5 feet tall, made of black granite.

7. **Main Deity**

Sri Suryanarayana Swamy

- Depicted standing on a chariot.
- Seven horses symbolize the seven days of the week.
- Holds lotus flowers in both hands.

Accompanied by:

Usha Devi
Chhaya Devi

8. **Sub-Deities**

Lord Shiva
Lord Vishnu
Sri Rama
Sri Lakshmi
Sri Parvati
Navagrahas

9. **Daily Rituals & Poojas**

Daily Schedule (approximate)

5:30 AM – Suprabhata Seva
6:00 AM – Abhishekam
7:00 AM onwards – Archana & Darshan
12:30 PM – Temple closes
4:00 PM – Reopens
8:00 PM – Ekantha Seva

Approximate Pooja Charges

- (Subject to change; please reconfirm)
- Archana – ₹20 to ₹50
- Abhishekam – ₹200 to ₹500
- Sahasranama Archana – ₹300
- Special Darshan – ₹100
- Surya Namaskara Seva – ₹100

10. **Special Poojas & Rituals**

- Ratha Saptami Special Abhishekam
- Surya Jayanti Seva
- Navagraha Shanti
- Ayush Homam
- Graha Dosha Nivarana Pooja
- Charges vary from ₹300 to ₹2000 depending on seva.

11. **Major Festivals**

🌞 **Ratha Saptami** (Most Important)
Celebrated in Magha month (Jan–Feb)
Huge crowd
Special Rathotsavam

Other Festivals

- Makara Sankranti
- Ugadi
- Vaikunta Ekadasi
- Karthika Masam

12. **Facilities for Devotees**

- Temple choultries
- Basic accommodation rooms
- Drinking water
- Queue system
- Prasadam counter
- Parking facility
- For accommodation, contact temple office directly.

13. **Donation Information**

Devotees can donate through:
Temple office counter
Demand Draft in favour of: Executive Officer, Sri Suryanarayana Swamy Devasthanam, Arasavalli
(For updated bank account / online donation details, please contact temple office directly as these may change periodically.)

14. **Nearby Temples**

- Sri Kurmanatha Temple – Srikurmam (Kurma Avatar temple)
- Sri Mukhalingam Temple
- Sri Koteshwara Temple
- Sri Uma Rudra Koteswara Temple

15. **Nearby Tourist Attractions**

- Kalingapatnam Beach
- Srikurmam
- Telineelapuram Bird Sanctuary
- Salihundam Buddhist site

16. **Nearby Budget Hotels (Srikakulam Town)**

Hotel Vijetha Inn
Hotel Nagavali
Hotel Blue Moon
Haritha Hotel (AP Tourism)
(Various budget lodges are available near the RTC complex.)

17. **Special Spiritual Significance**

- Sunday worship is considered highly auspicious.
- Offering red flowers and wheat is traditional.
- Surya Gayatri and Aditya Hridayam are commonly recited here.
- Devotees perform Surya Namaskaram in the temple premises.

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Ref: Google Gemini

The Arasavalli Sri Suryanarayana Swamy Temple is one of the most ancient and unique Sun temples in India, and the only one of its kind in Andhra Pradesh where the deity is still actively worshipped daily.

📍 **Location & Contact**
* Address: Arasavalli Village, Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh - 532402.

* Distance: Approximately 1 km east of Srikakulam town.
* Phone: 08942-222421 | Mobile: +91-8978914660 / 949100070

* **How to Get There:**

* **By Rail**: Srikakulam Road (CHE) is the nearest railway station (approx. 10 km away)

* **By Road**: Well-connected by APSRTC buses and private taxis from Visakhapatnam (approx. 115 km) and Srikakulam town.

* **By Air:** Visakhapatnam International Airport (VTZ) is the nearest airport.

✨ **Greatness & Unique Architecture**

* **Kalinga Style**: Built in the Rekha Deula style of Kalinga architecture, similar to the Puri Jagannath temple.

* The Sun Ray Phenomenon: The temple is an engineering marvel. Twice a year (usually in February/March and September/October), the early morning sun rays travel through the five entrance gates and fall directly on the feet of the presiding deity.

* **The Idol**: The deity is carved from a single block of black granite, standing 5 feet tall, depicting the Sun God with his consorts Usha, Chaya, and Padmini.

📖 **Legends & History**

* **Indra's Penance**: Legend says Lord Indra, the King of Gods, once tried to enter a temple dedicated to Lord Shiva late at night.
He was stopped by the gatekeeper Nandi and injured.
To heal his pain and seek penance, Indra performed severe austerities to the Sun God, who instructed him to build this temple.

* **Ancient Roots**: Historically, stone inscriptions suggest the temple was built in the 7th Century CE by King Devendra Varma of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty.

🕉️ **Deities & Rituals**

* **Primary Deity**: Sri Suryanarayana Swamy (Sun God).

* **Sub-Deities**: The temple follows the Panchayatana style with shrines for Ganesha, Shiva, Parvati, and Vishnu.

* **Daily Rituals & Charges (Approximate):**

* **Temple Timings**: 5:00 AM – 12:30 PM & 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM.

* Ashtottara Sata Namarchana: ₹20 (Daily)
* Sahasra Namarchana: ₹30 (Daily)

* Ksheerabhishekam: ₹216 (Performed early morning)
* Surya Namaskarams: ₹50 (Specially popular on Sundays)
* Kalyanotsavam: ₹500 (Performed on Ekadasi days)

🎊 Festivals & Facilities

* **Major Festivals**:

* Ratha Saptami: The biggest festival (Feb/March), attracting lakhs of devotees.
* Kalyanotsavam: Celebrated during Chaitra Suddha Ekadasi.
* Maha Shivaratri & Vaikunta Ekadasi: Also observed with great pomp

* **Facilities**: The Devasthanam provides basic amenities, drinking water, and "Annadanam" (free meals) to pilgrims.

* **Accommodation**: The temple has a few guest houses (Choultries), but most visitors prefer hotels in Srikakulam town.

💰 Donations & Bank Info

The temple accepts donations for Annadanam and temple maintenance.

* **Account Name:** Sri Surya Narayana Swamy Devasthanam

* **Bank**: State Bank of India (SBI)

* **Branch**: Arasavalli

* **Account No**: 11152303078

* **IFSC Code**: SBIN0001646

🗺️ Nearby Attractions & Hotels

* **Nearby Temples**:

* Srikurmam Temple (15 km): The only temple in the world dedicated to Lord Vishnu's Kurma (Tortoise) avatar.
* Srimukhalingam (50 km): Ancient Shiva temple with exquisite carvings.

* **Tourist Spots**: Kalingapatnam Beach (30 km), Salihundam Buddhist Stupa.

* **Budget Hotels**: * The Nakshatra Inn (Walking distance to temple)

* Hotel Sunrise (L.B.S Colony)
* Varada Nagavali Hotel (New Colony)

Specific dates for the Sun Ray phenomenon for the current year:

In 2026, the unique astronomical phenomenon where the sun's rays directly touch the deity at **Arasavalli** occurs during the equinox periods. Because the temple is built with such precision, these dates remain largely consistent, typically falling in the second week of March and the first week of October.

☀️ Sun Ray Phenomenon Dates (2026)

This event occurs twice a year for 3 consecutive days. The rays move from the feet to the head of the deity over these days:

- **Uttarayanam (March):** March 9, 10, and 11, 2026.
- **Dakshinayanam (October):** October 1, 2, and 3, 2026.
- **Time:** Usually between **6:00 AM and 6:25 AM**.

Note: The rays typically touch the **feet** on the first day, the **chest** on the second, and the **head/forehead** on the third day.

Important 2026 Festival Dates

If you are planning a visit this year, please note that the major festival **Ratha Saptami** (the Sun God's birthday) has already occurred on **January 25, 2026**. However, Sundays remain the most auspicious days to visit throughout the year.

Event	Date in 2026	Significance
Ratha Saptami	January 25, 2026	The biggest annual festival; "Nijarupa Darshan" is allowed.
March Sun Rays	March 9–11, 2026	Rare architectural phenomenon (March 11 is the peak).
Kalyanotsavam	March 30, 2026	Celebrated on Chaitra Suddha Ekadasi.
October Sun Rays	October 1–3, 2026	Second occurrence of the sun ray phenomenon.

Pro-Tips for Your Visit

1. **Sunday Rush:** Sundays are considered extremely holy for the Sun God. If you prefer a quiet visit, try a weekday (Tuesday or Wednesday).
2. **Special Seva:** If you wish to witness the **Ksheerabhishekam** (Milk Abhishekam), you must be at the temple by **3:30 AM**. Tickets for this often need to be booked in advance or very early at the counter.
3. **Viewing the Rays:** During the March and October dates, the temple becomes exceptionally crowded. It is recommended to arrive by **4:30 AM** to secure a spot where you can see the sanctum.
4. **Dress Code:** Traditional wear is mandatory for special sevas. Men are expected to wear a Dhoti/Pancha, and women should wear a Saree or Chudidar with a dupatta.

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Photos

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Videos

Sri Sooryanarayana Swamy Temple, Arasavalli (3 min):

https://youtu.be/yMBMMAcfBCA?si=1eWIHSn3fAK1b1Ga

Sri Sooryanarayana Swamy temple, Arasavalli - Teerthayatra (10 min):

https://youtu.be/3VGodlRdR-U?si=zVboMkDfCQKwfgff

Arasavalli Sri Sooryanarayana temple history (9 min):

https://youtu.be/xUbkagTQeIQ?si=YlP_zumXlWAihOvs

Arasavalli Sri Sooryanarayana temple - Parichaya (7 min):

https://youtu.be/oUfHqGJNm94?si=lY0rHmGa_5cFcCj6

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Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar
February 27, 2026

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